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INTRODUCTION

The Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning is pleased to release this surveillance summary of reportable diseases in Kentucky. This publication will offer valuable information about disease incidence to readers throughout the health and human services community.

During 2000 several important disease trends were noted. The incidence of reported AIDS cases showed a decrease. This decrease may be due in part to delays in reporting and to advances in antiretroviral medications. Reported chlamydia cases continue to increase noticeably in the 15 to 24 year old age group and cases of gonorrhea also increased.

Enteric diseases showed slight decreases in occurrence except for shigellosis. Five counties experienced outbreaks with high rates of shigellosis.

Vector-borne disease report rates remained similar to previous years with the exception of malaria. The case count for malaria more than doubled with only 50% of the cases connected to military travel.

Cases of most vaccine preventable diseases remained low. Single cases of mumps and rubella were reported and a slight increase in pertussis cases was noted.

We acknowledge the contribution of the local health department's surveillance personnel and of all the physicians, hospital infection control personnel and medical laboratory personnel who have reported cases as required by statute. We remain committed to the timely dissemination of our findings to all who are partners in disease prevention.

